

# AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## GAS ACT 1992

### AMENDMENT OF GAS MANUAL

NO. 42 OF 1993

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

As provided for under Subsection 70(3) of the *Gas Act 1992* (the Act), this instrument amends the Gas Manual prepared by the Minister under Subsection 70(1) of the Act on 16 December 1992.

The Manual contains, as a minimum, technical requirements and procedures to ensure that –

- (a) industry standards and requirements for the construction, operation and maintenance of gas reticulation systems and of consumer installations are maintained;
- (b) gas appliances are safe and built to existing industry codes;
- (c) minimum standards for the quality of reticulated gas are maintained;
- (d) gas metering devices, used for commercial purposes to measure the quantity of gas used by a consumer, meet an acceptable standard of accuracy and reliability; and
- (e) means exist for consumers to have their gas meter or gas supply checked.

Clause 2. of the Manual, which, *inter alia*, specifies the standards for gas reticulation systems, is amended by removing all references to standards 'as in force from time to time' and by specifying the year of publication of the applicable standards.

Clause 3 of the Manual is amended by removing all references to authorised distributors' rule-making powers. What may be contained in the Manual is a matter for the Minister's discretion and the mode of amendment governed by strict statutory criteria and procedure. The adoption of distributors' rules in the Manual is outside the bounds of the statutory procedure and is, therefore, invalid.